

Claims

1. Transport system for transporting and handling microtiter plates, preferably for use in high throughput screening, diagnosis and/or combinatorial chemistry, comprising modules with devices for preparing specimens and/or introducing specimens and/or for optical readout and/or for plate storage and/or devices for further processing steps or readout steps, with an inter-modular transport system for transporting the microtiter plates (MPT) between the different devices and at least one central transport system (TS) for asynchronous plate transfer between individual modules (M) via input and output buffers (EAP).
2. Transport system according to claim 1, wherein input and output buffers (EAP) and transport units (TRS) are provided in the modules (M).
3. Transport system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the microtiter plates (MPT) are transported by means of revolving tables (DT) with sliding units.
4. Transport system according to one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one of the modules (M) is connected with a local computer (PC) with externally standardized interface and the transport and/or processing and/or loading and/or optical readout are/is controlled by a master computer (LR) via these interfaces.